



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Parks and Recreation Minutes 06/13/2000**

Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes  
Tuesday, June 13, 2000

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting came to order at 7:30 PM in the Whittemore Robbins House. Commission members in attendance included Joe Carabello, Bernice Jones, Don Vitters and Mary Tegan. Also present were Human Services Head Patsy Kraemer, DPW Representative Mark Shea and Superintendent of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Public attendance included Jack Fitzgerald, Jack Kelly, Jeanne Leary, Ann LeRoyer, Holly Kennedy, Paddy Marcotte, Joe Hart, Barbara Murphy, Michael Albanese, Jack Hurd and Fran Newton.

### Minutes of Tuesday, May 9, 2000

The Commission reviewed the minutes of May 9, 2000. Mr. Vitters and Ms. Jones amended the minutes. Mr. Carabello motioned to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Jones, approved 4-0.

### RFP Design Services – Thorndike, Robbins and Scannell Field

Mr. Vitters discussed the need for design services for Thorndike, Robbins and Scannell Field. Mr. Vitters estimated the following:

#### **Project Estimated Amount**

#### **For Design Services    Estimated Bid Date    Project Begin Date**

Scannell    \$3,500    August 1, 2000    Fall 2000

Thorndike    \$5,000    Fall 2000    Spring 2001

Robbins \$4,000    Winter 2000    FY 2002

Mr. Vitters discussed the projects could go through a general bid process or through a select list bidding process. The Commission discussed the potential need for a July or August meeting to review designs for Scannell Field. Mr. Vitters indicated to Mr. Connelly that he would draft the RFP for Design Services.

### Summer Street Light Hours

Mr. Vitters asked the Summer Street neighbors to introduce themselves. Jeanne Leary indicated that she would act as spokesperson. Ms. Leary indicated her quality of life has been affected with the noise level, traffic problems and public drinking has been occurring at Summer Street Park. Ms. Leary indicated that the Town By-law indicates the parks closes at 9 pm. She further stated that there our times when the lights at Summer Street park are on until 11 pm. Mr. Connelly explained that the Town By-law did give the Park Commissioners the authority to extend the park hours. Ms. Murphy indicated that when the lights were installed seventeen plus years ago, the neighbors were assured the lights would be turned off at 10 pm. Ms. Kennedy explained that she was told the lights were not on past 9 pm when she purchased her home. Mr. Vitters indicated the Commission was not aware of this problem at Summer Street. Mr. Vitters indicated that the public drinking and parking issues were police issues and that Mr. Connelly would talk to the Community Safety Department. Mr. Connelly reviewed the current practice of all the lighted recreation areas in town (Buzzell, H.S. Basketball, Hurd, Summer Street). Mr. Carabello recalled that the Commission discussed this issue when the Buzzell lights were installed and that his recollection was that the lights were to be out by 10 pm. The Commission and Mr. Connelly discussed whether or not the Recreation Department could control the lights at Summer Street as they do in the other parks. Mr. Connelly explained that this would increase costs to the department. Mr. Hart explained that Babe Ruth had a 2-hour time limit on their games.

Mr. Connelly reviewed that schedule of Babe Ruth, 6 pm and 8 pm games. Mr. Vitters asked if Babe Ruth was invited to this meeting. Mr. Connelly indicated that more than one member of Babe Ruth was informed of the meeting and were mailed an agenda. The Commission continued to discuss the issue of controlling the Summer Street lights. Mr. Vitters and Mr. Connelly discussed a phase in approach for the time change. Mr. Connelly indicated that the spring season will be over by July 1st. The Commission discussed whether or not to vote on a phase in approach or insist on immediate action. Ms. Kennedy asked if a petition signed by the neighborhood would assist in showing the support of the entire neighborhood. Mr. Vitters stated that was a good idea to help demonstrate the support of the entire neighborhood. Mr. Shea discussed the Summer Street reconstruction plan with the neighbors. Mr. Vitters asked Mr. Connelly to write a memo to Babe Ruth and the Arlington Police Department regarding the abutters concerns. The neighbors discussed the amount of trash and broken bottles at the Summer Street and Hills Hill Field. Mr. Carabello made the following motion, seconded by Ms. Jones:  
Move that the Park and Recreation Commission mandate that all Town of Arlington lighted recreational facilities, under the jurisdiction of the Commission, be open from 5 am – 10 pm as of July 1, 2000.  
The motion was approved 4-0.

#### *Arlington Baseball Association Signs at Buck Field and Scannell Field*

Mr. Hart of Little League baseball stated that the Little League initiative and Article 25 of Town Meeting were two separate issues. Mr. Hart reviewed the history of the Little League proposal made to the Park Commissioners. Mr. Hart reviewed his recollection of the March 1999 and October 1999 meetings. Mr. Hart indicated that he believed he received approval from the Commission. Mr. Hart commented that the signs give the field a ballpark quality and helped raise funds for field improvements. Mr. Hart stated that the initial sponsorship fee for the signs was \$125 and the actual cost was \$85, resulting in a net of \$40 per sign. Mr. Hart indicated the \$800 raised this year would be put directly back into field maintenance. Mr. Vitters and Mr. Hart discussed where the \$800 would be kept. Mr. Hart stated that it did not matter to him. Mr. Hart suggested that Mr. Connelly keep track of the funds in town accounts. Mr. Hart discussed the unsatisfactory conditions of the fields and the lack of town monies that have gone toward baseball field improvements. Mr. Vitters indicated that he received conflicting reports from Town Counsel concerning the legality of sponsorship signs in the parks. Mr. Carabello indicated that a final determination from Town Counsel was necessary. Mr. Vitters and Mr. Hart discussed the current practice of putting the signs up for games and taking them down immediately after the game. Mr. Vitters commented that the Commission had to consider the amount being raised in comparison to the safety and appearance of the signs. Mr. Hart explained to the Commission that there was a potential to sell 66 signs and raise \$7,000. Mr. Newton reviewed some of the safety concerns of the fields and his desire to raise money to address these concerns. Ms. Tegan explained that the issue was signs and not field maintenance. Ms. Tegan agreed that every field in Arlington could be in better condition. Ms. Tegan commented that this forum was to discuss the appropriateness of signs at Buck and Scannell Field. Mr. Vitters asked if there were other ways to generate \$7,000 annually. Mr. Carabello stated that his issue was not knowing about the signs going up. Mr. Carabello did not have an issue with the aesthetics of the signs. Mr. Carabello and Mr. Vitters explained their concern of the temporary fence at Poets Corner. The Commission indicated that they never gave approval for such a fence. Mr. Hart indicated that he believed it to be Mr. Keefe's suggestion to place a temporary fence at Poets rather than a permanent fence. Mr. Vitters acknowledged the discussion but insisted that final authorization was not given. Mr. Vitters asked that the fence be taken down immediately. Mr. Vitters was concerned with limiting field usage with fencing and user safety. Mr. Vitters asked Mr. Connelly to develop procedures for organization to seek Commission approval for various park improvements. Mr. Vitters asked that any future park improvements be placed in writing with good documentation and be submitted to the Commission for review. Upon extensive review and fact finding the Commission will then ask the organization making the request to attend a meeting for final approval. Ms. Jones would also like to see more involvement by the Department of Public Works regarding these type of requests. Mr. Hart explained to Mr. Vitters that the period of time the signs would be up was May and June. Mr. Hart further echoed the support of the parents and the players in the Little League organization. Mr. Connelly explained that additional funds could help with increased pre-season field maintenance. Mr. Connelly also asked the cooperation of the organizations to maintain the field in an appropriate manner, including not brooming the fields to get the field ready for play. Mr. Vitters and Ms. Marcotte discussed the Town Meeting discussion of signs and sponsorship. Mr. Vitters indicated that the Commission needs to move cautiously on this precedent setting issue. Mr. Carabello repeated his desire to have Town Counsel rule on this issue. With Town Counsel authorization Mr. Carabello would support the signs and a town controlled field fund maintenance. Mr. Vitters asked Little League to place this proposal in writing and submit it to Mr. Connelly, who in turn will submit a copy to Town Counsel for approval. The Commission discussed what to do for the remainder of the baseball season. Mr. Carabello made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Vitters:  
Move that the Commission allow Little League to continue to hang their signs at the beginning of a baseball game and remove the signs at the end of the baseball game for the remainder of the 2000 spring season.  
Motion approved 3-1; Ms. Tegan voted to deny the motion.

As Mr. Hart left the meeting, Mr. Vitters confirmed that the fence at Poets Corner would be taken down immediately.

*Rink Improvement Subcommittee and Concession Stand Budget Proposal*

Mr. Connelly reviewed his understanding of the reasoning behind the town taking over the concession stand operations. Mr. Connelly reviewed his May 10, 2000 memo to Town Counsel. Mr. Hurd gave a history of the Rink Improvement Committee (RIC). Mr. Kelly gave his history of the concession stand and purpose of the RIC. Mr. Kelly and Mr. Hurd discussed the purpose of the concession stand. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the RIC is not associated with Arlington Youth Hockey, although some members of RIC may also serve on the hockey board. The Commission discussed the re-imbursement for staffing services from both Arlington High School, Arlington Catholic and Arlington Hockey Club. Mr. Hurd asked if a credit could be given to the bill at years end. Mr. Connelly indicated that he believed it would be possible and he will check it with Town Counsel. On the recommendation of Mr. Fitzgerald, the Commission amended the proposed subcommittee appointments. The Rink Improvement Subcommittee shall include the following: 2 members appointed by AHC, 1 member from AHS, 1 member from ACHS, 1 member from the public appointed by the Commission. Mr. Carabello made the following motion, seconded by Ms. Jones:

Move that the Commission accept the Park and Recreation Commission Veterans Memorial Sport Center Rink Improvement Subcommittee as amended.

Motion approved 4-0.

Mr. Carabello and the Commission discussed the budget with Mr. Hurd, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Fitzgerald. Mr. Carabello made the following motion, seconded by Ms. Tegan:

Move that the Commission accept the proposed FY2001 Concession Stand Budget as revised on June 5, 2000.

Motion approved 4-0.

*Hills Pond Water Treatment*

Mr. Vitters summarized conversations with the Friends of Menotomy Park and the Conservation Commission regarding plans to treat the water. Mr. Vitters and Mr. Shea discussed ongoing funding for this project. Mr. Shea discussed the timing of the treatment. Mr. Vitters stated that he believed the work needed to be done during the month of June. The Commission stated that it may be too late to have the work done this June. Mr. Vitters asked the Commission if they would be in favor of the water treatment if it did not cost the town any money. The consensus of the Commission was that they would be in favor of the project.

Ms. Jones motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Tegan, and approved 4-0.

The Commission adjourned at 11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Joseph J. Connelly,  
Superintendent of Recreation